

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ting-Mao Chao on January 24, 2012.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Please see the attached amendments marked at the top with the word "REQUESTED" which have been approved by the Examiner per the directions set forth in MPEP 1302.04.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the limitation of the means for limiting axial compression comprising resistive means arranged under tension in such a way that when the damper is subjected to an external axial force tending to compress the bellows arrangement, the resistive means is subjected to a tensile force as required by claims 16 and 18. Examiner notes that one of ordinary skill in the damper art would not have looked to Arthur, which is directed to a control for cabin pressure regulators, to arrive at the claimed invention because there would have been no motivation to combine the teachings of Arthur with the vibration damper of APA, as modified.

Therefore, independent claims 16 and 18 are allowed. The remaining claims are allowed due to their dependency from one of claims 16 and 18.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELODY BURCH whose telephone number is (571)272-7114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (6:30 AM-3:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Siconolfi can be reached on 571-272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Melody M. Burch/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3657